

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1233

Introduced by Assembly Member Shirley Horton

February 21, 2003

An act to add and repeal Section 14054 of the Government Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1233, as introduced, Shirley Horton. Highway capacity enhancement demonstration projects: coordinated environmental review process.

Existing law sets forth the responsibilities of the Department of Transportation with respect to highways.

This bill, until January 1, 2008, would establish a coordinated environmental review process for three highway capacity enhancement demonstration projects. The bill would require the projects to be identified by the department, and selected by the California Transportation Commission, in accordance with specified criteria and would provide for the department to be designated as the consolidated permit agency. The bill would require the department to seek and invite participation by federal agencies. The bill would require the department to provide staff support for the demonstration projects to the extent funds are identified for this purpose.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the Highway Capacity Enhancement Project Delivery Demonstration Act.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The development of projects that increase highway capacity benefits the environment and improves mobility in congested transportation corridors.

(b) It is necessary to consider the effectiveness of an alternative approach to prepare environmental documents and act on permits for highway projects under a demonstration program within the Department of Transportation for agencies to cooperate to deliver highway capacity-increasing projects.

SEC. 3. Section 14054 is added to the Government Code, to read:

14054. (a) (1) On or before July 1, 2006, the department shall identify, and the commission shall select, three demonstration projects that increase highway capacity for the coordinated environmental review and permit process authorized by this section. Candidates identified for selection shall meet all of the following criteria:

(A) The project will increase capacity on one or more state highways.

(B) The project will improve mobility and decrease congestion by increasing the capacity of the highway.

(C) The project will result in an overall benefit to the environment by increasing highway capacity.

(D) The project requires environmental review and consultation in order to address potential environmental impacts.

(E) The project is programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

(F) The project sponsor consents to the selection and to contract with the department for preparation of the environmental document, as required pursuant to Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code, for the project.

(2) In addition to the selection criteria in paragraph (1), the projects shall be located throughout the state, as follows:

1 (A) One project shall be located in one or more of the counties
2 identified in County Group No. 1 pursuant to Section 187 of the
3 Streets and Highways Code.

4 (B) One project shall be located in one or more of the counties
5 identified in County Group No. 2 pursuant to Section 187 of the
6 Streets and Highways Code.

7 (C) One project shall be located in one or more counties
8 identified in either County Group No. 1 or County Group No. 2
9 pursuant to Section 187 of the Streets and Highways Code.

10 (b) The department may be designated as the consolidated
11 permit agency pursuant to Part 1 (commencing with Section
12 71000) of Division 34 of the Public Resources Code.

13 (c) The department shall seek and invite participation by
14 applicable federal agencies when preparing the environmental
15 document and during the permit process.

16 (d) To the extent that funds are identified for this purpose, staff
17 support for the demonstration projects shall be made available by
18 the department.

19 (e) The department shall report to the Legislature upon the
20 conclusion of the demonstration projects. The report shall include
21 an assessment of the timeliness and the project delivery
22 performance of the projects that were authorized to be delivered
23 under this section.

24 (f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,
25 2008, and as of that date is repealed.

